

REMARKS

Claims 13-24 are pending.

Support

Support for newly added claims 20 and 21 can be found in the specification as filed on page 20 at lines 6-8.

Support for new claims 22-24 can be found in the specification as filed at the same place where original claim 19 was supported.

Issues Under 35 USC § 102

The rejection of claims 13 and 14 in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the last Office Action as anticipated by US 6,015,506 (Streinz) is traversed. All pending claims are limited to intermediate alumina. Streinz never discloses intermediate alumina. Although the Examiner refers to "high temperature crystalline phases of alumina consisting of gamma, theta, delta and alpha alumina", such a mixture containing α -alumina is not intermediate alumina as defined in the pending claims. The intermediate alumina of the present invention is alumina other than α -alumina (see page 20, lines 5-6 of the present specification).

In the present invention, by the combined use of intermediate alumina and a roll-off reducing agent, both effects of increase in the polishing rate (Effect A) and the effects of reduction in the surface roughness of a polished object (Effect B) are exhibited.

These effects are clearly evident by comparing Example No. II-1 to II-C with Comparative Example No. II-1.

When using either intermediate alumina or a roll-off reducing agent alone, both of Effects A and B cannot be exhibited (see Comparative Example II-2 to II-5). As such, the present invention achieves both Effects A and B by the combined use of the specific compounds. Streinz, however, fails to disclose such a combined use.

Furthermore, as defined by claim 14, Effects A and B are also achieved by the combined use of Compound (A) and Compound (B). These effects are clearly seen by comparing Example No. III-1 with Comparative Example No. III-2 and III-4. The attention of the Examiner is invited to the fact that since acetic, citric, and tartaric acids, as pointed out by the Examiner, are disclosed simply as a stabilizer for the oxidizer, Effects A and B to be achieved by combined use of Compound (A) and Compound (B) are never disclosed nor suggested by Streinz.

The rejection of claims 17-19 in paragraph 3 of the last Office Action as anticipated by US 5,783,489 (Kaufman) is traversed for reasons of record as disclosed beginning in the second full paragraph on page 2 of a document entitled "Reply Under 37 CFR § 1.111" filed in this case on or about February 2, 2004, the substance of which is incorporated herein.

Kaufman merely discloses a large number of acids. Kaufman never discloses the specific combination of Compounds (A) and (B), which is the subject matter of many pending claims.

Issues Under 35 USC § 103

The rejections in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, beginning on page 6 of the last Office Action, of claims 15 and 16 as obvious over Streinz in view of US 6,569,216 (Taira) is traversed. As explained above, Streinz does not disclose intermediate alumina. It therefore makes absolutely no difference whether it is or is not obvious to combine the teachings of Tiara with those of Streinz. Any such hypothetical combination still does not result in subject matter within the scope of that claimed.

In the alternative, Tiara is not prior art since the present case is entitled to its Japanese priority date, a date earlier than the earliest date to which Tiara can be considered to be prior art. Rights are reserved to submit a certified copy of the priority document, should such be necessary in order to overcome this ground of rejection.

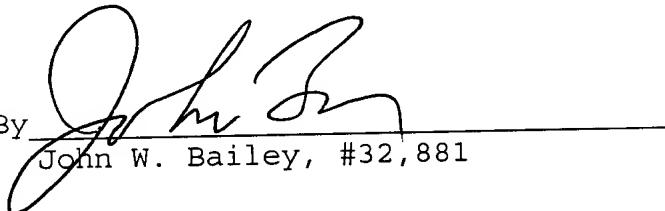
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David R. Murphy (Reg. No. 22,751) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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